

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01957 211346Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /014 W
-----011257 211357Z /43

O P 211306Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE
INFO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 2869

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1957

USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REVIEW OF FULBRIGHT-HAYS
EXCHANGE PROGRAM

REF: FRANKFURT 4897, USICA 12465, STATE 154691

1. POST WELCOMES GAO EVALUATION OF FULBRIGHT-HAYS EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN FINLAND TO WHICH U.S. DIRECT CONTRIBUTION IS NOW APPROXIMATELY \$25,000 PER YEAR. HOWEVER GAO TEAM SHOULD BE AWARE OF FOLLOWING FACTORS WHICH CONCERN TIMING OF VISIT TO HELSINKI STARTING JUNE 26 AND LENGTH OF STAY: JUNE 23 IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND MID-SUMMER CELEBRATION WHEN LARGE PERCENTAGE OF FINNISH POPULATION (AND WE SUSPECT REST OF NORDIC COUNTRIES) BEGINS EXODUS TO COUNTRY HOMES AND DOES NOT RETURN UNTIL FOUR OR SIX WEEKS LATER.

2. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE EIGHT MAN UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD (FULBRIGHT COMMISSION) IS CURRENTLY IN BRUSSELS. WE ARE INFORMED THAT HE IS GOING DIRECTLY TO HIS SUMMER HOME WHEN HE RETURNS. USEF ACCOUNTANT WHO HAS LONGEST EXPERIENCE WITH COMMISSION (16 YEARS) DEPARTS THIS MID-SUMMER WEEKEND FOR THREE WEEKS' VACATION ON ISLAND IN CENTRAL FINLAND AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. THE
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NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WILL BE HERE FOR WEEK OF JUNE 26-30 BUT WILL NOT BE IN HELSINKI THE FOLLOWING WEEK. CPAO IS ON LEAVE OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY AT THIS TIME, EXPECTED BACK O/A JUNE 28. EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ASSISTANT WILL BE AVAILABLE JUNE 26-30. CAO IS AVAILABLE FOR JUNE 26-JULY 7 PERIOD. CPAO AND CAO ARE BOTH USEF BOARD MEMBERS. OTHER TWO AMERICAN BOARD MEMBERS ARE DR. JAMES JOHNSON WHO ALREADY IS

AT HIS SUMMER HOME BUT REACHABLE BY PHONE. JOHN HOPKINS, REMAINING AMERICAN, CANNOT BE LOCATED. PROF. PAIVIO RIIHINEN, ONE OF FINNISH BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE IN HELSINKI JUNE 27 AND 28, THEN DEPARTS FOR GREECE. PROF. MATTI TIURI IS ALREADY AT HIS SUMMER HOME AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH BY PHONE. POST ATTEMPTING TO REACH REMAINING FINNISH BOARD MEMBER TO ASCERTAIN HIS WHEREABOUTS WEEK JUNE 26-30.

3. EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN FINLAND (EXCEPT FOR IVP PROGRAM) IS NOW PRIMARILY FUNDED FROM PROCEEDS OF FINLAND-AMERICA EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND. ENDOWMENT FOR THIS FUND DERIVES FROM 1976 ADVANCE REPAYMENT OF FINLAND'S WW1 AND SUBSEQUENT DEBT TO U.S. CHAIRMAN OF THE FUND WHO IS A SENIOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL IS NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF AUGUST.

4. AS HOTEL SPACE VERY DIFFICULT TO LOCATE IN HELSINKI THIS SUMMER, POST HAS TENTATIVELY RESERVED LAST TWO SINGLES AVAILABLE IN TAPIOLA GARDEN HOTEL, FIVE MILES FROM CITY. WHEN TEAM ADVISES ACTUAL PLANS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HIS MESSAGE - WE WILL CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE ROOMS CLOSER TO CITY CENTER.

5. FYI. POST COMMUNICATIONS ARE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23, FOR FINNISH NATIONAL HOLIDAY. REQUEST REPLY BY COB THURSDAY, JUNE 22. OTHERWISE NIACT PRECEDURE REQUIRED FOR POST ACTION
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FROM FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY. CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT IS GEOFFREY GROFF-SMITH. EMBASSY TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 171931.
GROFF-SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
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Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
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Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ABF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 FRANKFURT 4897, 78 STATE 154691
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2269414
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REVIEW OF FULBRIGHT-HAYS EXCHANGE PROGRAM
TAGS: AGAO, OEXC
To: FRANKFURT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f08db784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014